MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Let him complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We want a Short Duration Discussion on Power. There was only 45 per cent achievement las year...*(Interruptions)*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : We can have a Half-an-hour Discussion on it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : As this is a very important subject - almost all the States are facing Power crisis - I feel there should be a full-fledged discussion on this.

12.00 hrs.

Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, kindly respond with a fulfledged discussion on the power crisis in the country. It is because almost all the States are now facing this problem.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, this question relates to a specific project...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Does not matter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Please listen to me now...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We want a short duration discussion on it....*(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Poverty and Starvation amongst Tribals

124. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware the poverty and starvation still prevail amongst tribals and other backward people in the country specially in Maharashtra, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to ameliorate the living conditions of these people?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment does not monitor starvation prevailing amongst tribal and other backward people in the country. It, however, implements a number of employment and poverty alleviation schemes in the rural areas for all people below the poverty line including trival and other backward people. In all these programmes, reservation has been provided for SC/ST beneficiaries ranging from 22.5% to 67%. Central allocations to the States under major programmes of rural employment and poverty alleviation which are made on the basis of proportion of rural poor in each State to the total poor in the country (except in EAS) are given below in respect of Maharashtra, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of Scheme	Reservation for SC/ST	Central Allocations for 1997-98		
		Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Orissa
Jawahar Rozgar Yojana	22.5%	19678	16927	12597
Employment Assurance Scheme	—	3575*	1920*	2090
Indira Awas Yojana	60%	10207	8780	6534
Integrated Rural Development Programme	50%	5457	4694	3494
Million Wells Scheme	67%	4402	3787	2818
National Social Assistance Programme	—	6751	3970	3920

EAS being a demand driven scheme, no prior allocations are made. On receipt of demands, funds are released.

STD Facilities in Rural Areas

125. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of demands for providing STD facilities in the rural areas are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the number thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to clear the pending demands?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir, a large number of demands for provision of STD facilities in the rural areas are pending. The statewise details of the stations where STD facilities are required to be provided are furnished in the Statement enclosed.